

Korea Information Series No. 4

Facts About South Korea

1945—1960

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FOREWORD

The past 15 years has been a period of immeasurable misfortunes and miseries for the South Korean people. A barbarous colonialist fascist terror regime, unparalleled in world history, has been maintained by the U.S. aggressors in South Korea. Only non-rights and darkness prevail in South Korea and the people are crushed down by poverty and hunger under the U.S. imperialist colonial rule.

In an attempt to prolong their colonial system the U.S. imperialists have resorted to every foul means on the strength of a huge military and police force. From the first day of U.S. occupation of South Korea, the popular masses in South Korea rejected the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, Syngman Rheeites. And the revolutionary strength of the people kept growing.

At last, the South Korean people have risen up in demand of a political change and succeeded in winning an initial victory by driving Syngman Rhee out of the post of "presidency". The downfall of Syngman Rhee was a serious blow to the U.S. imperialists, exposing once again before the world the aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists are making every effort to save their tottering colonial ruling system. They brought out another set of puppets on the stage. History is a living testimony to the fact that no murderous oppressions nor sugary words can chain a nation for long.

Flames of resistance are rising in South Korea. And dawn is breaking over the dark land.

1. U.S. OCCUPATION OF SOUTH KOREA AND FASCIST MILITARY RULE

The U.S. imperialists landed in Inchon on September 8, about one month after Korea was liberated by the great Soviet Army from the Japanese imperialist yoke on August 15, 1945. From the first day of their occupation of South Korea the U.S. aggressors aimed at converting the whole of Korea into a U.S. colony and a military base against the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. To this end, the U.S. imperialists, first of all, formed a military government in South Korea and cooked up many evil laws to suppress the democratic forces. At the same time they recruited all the reactionary forces, landlords, comprador capitalists, national traitors, and pro-Japanese and pro-American elements in South Korea to carry out their colonial enslavement policy.

A handful of Korean comprador bourgeoisie and landlords took an active part in oppressing and exploiting the people under the Japanese colonial rule. Naturally, they were the target of hatred and contempt of the people. Liberation struck terror into the hearts of these traitors. However, a saviour came to these unsavory elements. The U.S. imperialists helped those elements set up the "Hankook Democratic Party" (the present "Democratic Party") headed by Kim Sung Soo. This was followed in October by the "Central Council for the Promotion of Independence" headed by Syngman Rhee, their well trained and faithful running dog, whom they had airshipped from the U.S. The U.S. Military Government appointed ten pro-Americans, mostly

from the "Hankook Democratic Party", as its advisors.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists took measures for oppressing the democratic forces so as to break down the revolutionary forces. With liberation, a high-pitched political enthusiasm of the people for building a sovereign, independent state swept the land. Democratic political parties and social organizations were formed and people's committees, the genuine people's power, established by October 1945, in 131 counties, 12 cities and 7 provinces of South Korea. The representatives of the South Korean democratic parties and social organizations demanded in the name of the entire South Korean people that the U.S. Military Government be abolished immediately and all powers be turned over to the people's committees. Subsequently a People's Committees Conference was held in Seoul with the participation of 700 representatives and it put forward formally the same demand. General Hodge, Commander of U.S. occupation forces, however, not only rejected it with a terse statement issued in October 1945, that the U.S. Military Government was the sole government in South Korea, but also disbanded by force the people's committees and arrested and imprisoned their officials.

The offensive of the U.S. imperialists against the democratic forces became more naked even before the first Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission was convened in March-May, 1946. The Joint Commission was set up in accordance with the decisions on Korea of the Moscow Three Foreign Ministers Conference held in December 1945 to develop Korea into a unified democratic, independent country following the establishment of a provisional government.

However, the U.S. imperialists had no intention to implement the decisions. They concocted numerous evil laws for oppressing the democratic movement of the people.

On November 2, 1945, the U.S. Military Government in South Korea issued Ordinance No. 21, which read in part:

"... Regulations, orders, notices and other legal documents issued by the former government of Korea (i.e. the

Japanese government and the Japanese Governor-General in Korea—Ed.) effective on August 9, 1945 will remain in force until they are abrogated by a special ordinance of the Military Government." Say it as one may, but for all practical purposes the U.S. Military Government in South Korea took over the Japanese laws.

Particularly, notorious were Ordinance No. 55 on the Registration of Political Parties, Ordinance No. 72 on the violations of the rules, regulations and laws of the U.S. Military Government and Ordinance No. 88 on Publishing Newspapers and Periodicals, orders governing mass processions and demonstrations as well as assembly of political parties and social organizations. How the U.S. imperialists restricted the political parties can be seen clearly in the following stipulations in Ordinance No. 55: any group composed of more than three persons engaged in any form of political activities shall be registered as a political party, and activities of organizations or associations including public opinions, general propaganda in written or oral form or general actions which may exert some influence upon government policies and foreign relations shall be regarded as political activities.

U.S. Military Government Ordinance No. 72 states that activities running counter to the interests of the U.S. army, insolent acts toward the American nationals, and publications which complain, are disagreeable and impolite to the occupation forces and their allies or their nationals will be considered illegal, and persons concerned shall be tried by the Military Government tribunal and punished accordingly.

According to these two ordinances, a meeting of more than three persons constituted political activities and if any action of the Koreans was not to the liking of the U.S. aggressive army or American nationals they would be unconditionally punished.

The number of such evil laws which were either cooked up by the U.S. Military Government or taken over from the Japanese imperialists surpassed five hundreds. And these

"laws" came in hand for the U.S. occupation army in suppressing the democratic forces. The U.S. imperialists, in an attempt to drive the Communist Party underground, trumped up in May 1946 the infamous "Chungpansa Counterfeit Money Case." It was alleged that counterfeit money was printed in the "Chungpansa" printing house. It was at this printing house that the *Haibang Ilbo* (Liberation Daily), the organ of the Communist Party, was printed. The U.S. Military Government had suspended more than ten newspapers, including the *Haibang Ilbo* in Seoul, by August 1947.

Moreover, the U.S. army authorities raided and destroyed the social organizations affiliated with the Democratic National Front, suppressed their lawful activities and terrorized their leaders. On the other hand, the U.S. imperialists instigated the terrorist groups composed of the Syngman Rhee followers and fascist elements to disrupt the work of the Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission held on two occasions (March-May, 1946 and May-October, 1947). The scuttling of the Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission was a part of the U.S. colonial enslavement policy in Korea. Already it became more than clear in February 1946, that the U.S. was bent on wrecking the Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission. Prior to the convening of the second Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission, they set up the "South Korean Democratic Council" with Syngman Rhee as its chairman. This was to be the base of the puppet regime to come. Furthermore, when the "Democratic Council" became the target of hatred and wrath of the people, the U.S. imperialists replaced it with the "Interim Legislative Assembly" in December 1946, and engineered it not only to adopt the so-called "Law on General Elections" to pave the way for separate elections in South Korea but also to concoct the "Korean Temporary Constitution" on which the present "Constitution of the Republic of Korea" is based. Then Military Government Ordinance No. 141 of June 1947 followed. Under this Ordinance, legislation, administration and justice were exercised by the "South Korean Interim Government" composed of the Koreans under the control of the U.S. Military Government.

2. FABRICATION OF PUPPET SYNGMAN RHEE REGIME AND DIVISION OF NATION BY U.S. IMPERIALISTS

Having disrupted the work of the Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission, the U.S. imperialists began to work on a separate puppet government for South Korea. On September 17, 1947 when the second Joint U.S.S.R.-U.S. Commission was still in session, the U.S. government illegally took the Korean question to the U.N. General Assembly. This was done despite Article 107 of the U.N. Charter stipulating that questions to be settled in connection with World War II do not come within the competence of the U.N. What is more, the U.S. government infringing the national rights of the Korean people refused even the participation of the Korean people's representatives in the deliberations of the United Nations.

The U.S. government refused to accept the proposal of the Soviet Government for the simultaneous withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. troops from Korea leaving the Korean question to the Koreans themselves. Moreover, the U.S. concocted the "U.N. Temporary Commission on Korea" by invoking its voting machines in the U.N. to cover up its aggressive policy and fabricate at the gun point a puppet regime, an instrument of U.S. aggression. All this was done under the U.N. flag and the "elections" in South Korea were scheduled for May 10, 1948.

The Korean people knew very well that the "elections" and "government" to be concocted in such way would as a matter of course be separate elections and a puppet government. The Korean people also knew very well that this puppet government would hinder the unification of the country and would be an extension of the U.S. Military Government and make South Korea a U.S. colony. There-

fore, the entire Korean people resolutely opposed the fraudulent "elections". The South Korean Workers' Party and all the political parties and social organizations concerned about the welfare of the nation, whether leftist, rightist or middle-of-the-roaders, rejected the "elections." Only such political parties as Syngman Rhee's "National Association for the Promotion of Independence" (former "Central Council for the Promotion of Independence"), Kim Sung Soo's "Hankook Democratic Party", then terrorist groups including the "Taidong Youth Corps" and the "National Youth Corps," and the like, took part in the "elections."

Under such conditions, the U.S. imperialists had to force the voters to the polls at the point of the bayonet and fabricate the "election return."

On the eve of the "elections" the U.S. Military Government rulers mobilized their army, the puppet police and the terrorist groups. Throughout South Korea a state of emergency was proclaimed. On "election" day, U.S. reconnaissance planes circled over the polling stations in a threatening manner. The armed police and terrorist groups called "Hyangbo Corps" were posted in polling stations, or visited houses to drag out the people to vote. The people who refused to vote were beaten up, kidnapped, imprisoned or even killed. Even according to a report prepared by the "U.N. Temporary Commission on Korea," 416 people were murdered and 858 wounded during the period of preparing and holding the elections. The "elections" were held amid such "free atmosphere" in accordance with the American style "democracy". Even the American U.P. correspondent James Roper wrote that in Seoul American reconnaissance planes flew overhead and that polling stations were strictly protected by the members of the "Hyangbo Corps." Thousands of policemen and plain clothesmen under the support of the American Army set up barricades at important spots and crossroads, and guards were posted on every street corner. Despite such a brutal suppression, the farce of "elections" failed miserably. Some polling stations, police stations and sub-police stations in Seoul and other places were destroyed, and telegraph and telephone wires

were cut and railway transportation disrupted. As a result on Cheju Island even the results of the "elections" could not be published.

Notwithstanding the nation-wide opposition of the Korean people, the U.S. imperialists fabricated the puppet "National Assembly" and set up the puppet Syngman Rhee regime.

The reactionary character of the puppet "National Assembly" was revealed clearly in its composition. Out of the 198 seats of the assembly, 159 were landlords, comprador capitalists and reactionary officials. Not a single "assemblyman" represented the workers and peasants. In the subsequent "elections" staged by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea, more than 800 "members" in total were "elected" but National Assembly compositions remained unchanged. The composition of the present 4th puppet "National Assembly" elected in May 1958, is as follows: out of the 233 seats, capitalists (including compradors) occupy 92 (39.4 per cent), landlords, 29 (12.5 per cent), high officials 54 (23.1 per cent), political brokers 38 (16.3 per cent) and terrorists the remaining seats. This shows the class character of the puppet "National Assembly" under the sway of comprador capitalists and landlords, who are the ruling classes in South Korea. It is evident, therefore, that such a "National Assembly" cannot represent the people's will. It is nothing but a political instrument of the U.S. colonial enslavement policy and an appendage to the puppet regime.

The U.S. Military Government in South Korea changed its signboard into the "government of the Republic of Korea," which was virtually the extension of the U.S. Military Government. This is proved more clearly in Article 100 of the "Constitution" which the puppet clique cooked up as the U.S. imperialists bid. The article says that existing laws and ordinances will remain in force inasmuch as they do not contravene the Constitution. Furthermore, under Article 11 of the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on the Initial Financial and Property Settlement" signed in September 1948, the Syngman Rhee regime is bound to observe all the laws,

ordinances and regulations of the U.S. Military Government or the "South Korean Interim Government."

Furthermore, between September and December 1948, the Syngman Rhee regime took a series of legal measures through "President's ordinances" for taking over all the machinery of the "South Korean Interim Government" and its local administrative organs. It revealed once more that the so-called "ROK government" is another name for the U.S. imperialist colonial, ruling machine and for the U.S. Military Government in South Korea.

Need it be said that the Syngman Rhee regime cannot act independently? Its legislation is only for serving the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

With the setting up of the puppet Syngman Rhee regime the U.S. imperialists further tightened its control over South Korea, politically, militarily and economically. The subsequent treaties and agreements concluded between the U.S. and Syngman Rhee eloquently testify to the aggressive nature of U.S. colonial predatory policy.

In 1948 alone, the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the puppet Syngman Rhee government concluded the "ROK-U.S. Interim Military Pact" (August 24, 1948), the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on the Initial Financial and Property Settlement" (September 11, 1948), the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Economic Aid" (December 10, 1948), etc. These pacts and agreements enabled the U.S. imperialists to rule South Korea through the puppet Syngman Rhee regime, politically, militarily, and economically and to prepare for a civil war in Korea to extend the U.S. colonial rule to the northern part.

3. U.S. IMPERIALISTS' AGGRESSIVE WAR IN KOREA AND THEIR DEFEAT

All the military measures taken by the U.S. imperialists since their occupation of South Korea were in contra-

vention of the international commitment to which the U.S. was a party. The U.S. was to come to South Korea to disarm the Japanese army in the territory south of the 38th parallel.

From the first day of their occupation of South Korea, the U.S. imperialists have pursued a policy of turning South Korea into a military base. Roads were built or expanded between Seoul and Inchon and between Seoul and Pusan. Several highways leading to the 38th parallel and big military roads across the peninsula along the 38th parallel were built. While they set up a "defence line" and dug trenches along the 38th parallel and installed permanent gun positions to be used against the northern part. They expanded the Kimpo airfield to accommodate B-29s, while many air bases including the one in Moseulpo on the Cheju Island were built. Port facilities at Pohang, Inchon, Pusan, Chinhae and Ryusu were expanded and improved to become naval bases.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists pulled its full weight on organizing the puppet army in South Korea into a source of cheap cannon fodder. They set up on November 13, 1945, the "National Defence Command" through a U.S. Military Government ordinance. Then on January 15, 1946, the "National Defence Guard" was organized and the "National Defence Guard Officers' School" was established. These later became the core and upper layer of the puppet army.

At the same time, the "Coast Guard" was organized and the "Marine School" was set up in Chinhae in January 1946.

In September the "Coast Guard" was reinforced with war-vessels.

In July 1948, the puppet air force was organized, and the "Air Force Officers' School" was subsequently established. At the U.S. imperialists' bidding the puppet Syngman Rhee government drew up the "Conscription Law" in August 1949, to enforce the compulsory conscription sys-

tem. Under this law even women and men unfit for military service were drafted under the cloak of "voluntary service."

By the end of 1949, the puppet army had 8 divisions. Then the "ROK-U.S. Interim Military Pact" was concluded on August 24, 1948, to put the puppet army under U.S. control. The "pact" specified that the Syngman Rhee regime gradually transfer to the commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea the "ROK Army," "Coast Guard" and "National Police," allowing the U.S. Commander to continue controlling the military bases and installations in South Korea. The pact was followed by the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Military Aid" signed on January 20, 1950, and the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Military Advisory Group." Thus the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea were given a free hand in organizing, controlling and training the puppet army and police.

While tightening their firm control over the puppet army and police, the U.S. imperialists perpetrated provocations along the 38th parallel watching for the right moment to strike. And on June 25, 1950, the U.S. imperialists ordered the puppet Syngman Rhee army to start the armed attack on the northern part.

Soon the U.S. had brought its own armed forces into the aggressive war in Korea. After the U.S. armed forces were in actual fighting in Korea, the U.S. government forced the U.N. Security Council to adopt an unlawful decision to cover its illegal action with the U.N. emblem. The farce staged by them has been exposed so many times. Suffice it to mention only one case here:

It was none other than MacArthur, then Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. armed forces in the Far East, who testified at a public hearing on his discharge in the U.S. Senate in 1951 that the U.S. army went into action 12 hours before the U.N. resolution was adopted. In this connection, I.F. Stone, an American, citing official U.S. documents in his book "Hidden History of the Korean War," stated that Gross, U.S. representative to the Security Council, had discussed with the State Department officials the draft resolu-

tion to be presented to the Security Council just before the war broke out on June 25.

During the Korean war the U.S. imperialist beasts perpetrated cannibal-like atrocities unprecedented in the annals of human history. In the northern part of the country they massacred countless innocent people and burnt or destroyed more than 8,700 factory buildings and over 600,000 houses. The U.S. imperialists' barbarous bombing devastated 370,000 jungbo of farm land, diminished 90,000 jungbo of arable land.

Moreover, over 5,000 schools, over 1,000 hospitals and clinics and more than 260 theatres and cinema houses and thousands of other cultural and public welfare establishments were destroyed. According to rough estimates, the total loss amounted to 420 billion won (in old currency). Besides, according to the announcement of the puppet regime the U.S. imperialists destroyed factories, schools, hospitals, houses and plundered people's properties worth three billion dollars in total in South Korea too. However, the repeated desperate offensives and atrocities perpetrated during the three-year war by the U.S. imperialist aggressors who boasted of their technical superiority could not conquer the Korean people who had risen in the just Fatherland Liberation War for the freedom and independence of the fatherland.

In the Korean War the U.S. imperialists not only mobilized the entire puppet Syngman Rhee army but also threw in one third of their own ground forces, one fifth of their air force and their main naval force. In addition, troops of 15 U.S. satellite countries were also brought in. Every diabolical method was used to kill the Korean people. The U.S. imperialists, however, could not but kneel down on the 38th parallel to sign the armistice agreement. They spent 20 billion dollars and used 73 million tons of ammunition in the Korean war, only to suffer 1,090,000 casualties including more than 390,000 American soldiers, killed or wounded. Even the *U.S. News and World Report* had to admit that the United States suffered defeat in the Korean war for the first time in its history.

4. U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND SYNGMAN RHEE CLIQUE PREPARE FOR ANOTHER WAR

The armistice in Korea attained by the Korean people with their heroic struggle opened up a new road for the realization of their long desired wish, the country's peaceful unification.

The U.S. imperialists, however, far from drawing a lesson from the shameful defeat they suffered in the Korean war, keep hampering desperately the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. They are frenziedly making preparations for another aggressive war in Korea.

The U.S. imperialists and their puppets are bent on perpetuating U.S. occupation of South Korea, and converting South Korea into a U.S. advance atomic base. The U.S. imperialists are doing everything to expand and reinforce the puppet army. On July 27, 1953, the day of signing the Korean Armistice Agreement, the U.S. imperialists instigated their satellite countries taking part in the Korean war to release the "16 States Declaration" binding each state to maintain and reinforce the "U.N. forces" even after the armistice. Moreover, in August of the same year, the U.S. government by invoking the hand-raising machine, forced the U.N. General Assembly to adopt a resolution which made it possible for the "U.N. Command," set up illegally by the U.N. Security Council at the U.S. bidding immediately following the launching of the aggressive war in Korea, to remain "in force." Under this resolution the U.S. imperialists aimed at legalizing in the name of the U.N. the continued occupation of South Korea by the "U.N. forces", 90 per cent of which were U.S. soldiers. Yet, the U.S. imperialists still felt uneasy about legalizing their permanent occupation of South Korea. Consequently, on August 8,

1953, they concluded the "ROK-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact" with the puppet Syngman Rhee regime.

Paragraph 4 of the "pact," stipulates in connection with the permanent occupation of South Korea by the U.S. army that "the Republic of Korea invests the United States with the right to station their army, navy and air force in and around the territory of the Republic of Korea," and paragraph 6 that "this pact is effective indefinitely." As can be seen above, the "Pact" does not put even a formal limitation on the numerical strength of the U.S. armed forces in South Korea as, well as to the number of bases. It only states that the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggressive army is indefinite.

While thus trying to legalize their permanent occupation of South Korea, the U.S. imperialists have been openly reinforcing the numerical strength of the U.S. troops and the puppet army and their equipment in gross violation of the armistice agreement and are hindering the peaceful unification of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists made it no secret that they themselves disrupted towards the end of 1953 the convocation of a political conference for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, and that they kept violating systematically the armistice agreement.

Dulles told a press conference on May 14, 1957, that "the armistice agreement must be interpreted realistically. It was prepared nearly five years ago and in my opinion, it was for a short term."

Radford, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated in the U.S. House Foreign Relations Committee on May 7, 1956, that the abrogation of truce agreement in Korea would enable them to improve their military position.

The U.S. imperialists not only drove out forcibly the Neutral Nations Inspection Teams from South Korea in June 1956 but also unilaterally abrogated on June 21, 1957, paragraph 13-d of the armistice agreement which prohibits the introduction of reinforcing combat materials. Following this, the U.S. imperialists, on July 1, 1957, transferred the "U.N. Command" to South Korea from Japan and atomic

weapons and guided missiles began to reach South Korea. The malicious schemes of the U.S. imperialists to convert South Korea into their atomic base have been thoroughly laid bare by the following facts.

During July and August in 1957, the U.S. imperialists reorganized the U.S. 7th Division in South Korea into a pentomic division, and in October the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division was moved from Japan to South Korea to be combined with other units into a pentomic division by December of the same year.

Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists, between the end of 1957 and March 1958, brought into South Korea the "Honest John" rocket battalion and the 280 mm atomic cannon battalion. Then in August 1958, the guided missile "Matador" Command was established in South Korea. In July 1958, they set up in the vicinity of Chunchon area the 100th "Honest John" rocket battalion. Early in 1959 they brought in stealthily even the "Nike-Hercules" and "Hawk" guided missiles to fortify their atomic base in South Korea.

Along with this, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique have frenziedly reinforced the puppet army. The puppet army has been expanded to 31 divisions from 16 divisions at the time of the armistice. Since the beginning of 1960, it has been further expanded: a "four-year plan (1960-63) for strengthening the national defence forces" has been drawn up, and plans are being made for reorganizing the ground forces into pentomic divisions. (*Tongyang Tongshin*, February 2, 1960.)

As the U.S. occupation army and the puppet troops are reinforced, the U.S. imperialists and their puppets keep clamouring about the abrogation of the armistice agreement and immediate "March North." In an attempt to aggravate the war climate, they staged large-scale atomic manoeuvres in an imaginary "March North" on nine occasions in 1959 alone.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists keep making provocations along the Military Demarcation Line. The number of the cases of the hostile acts committed by the American side

from the armistice up until May 10, 1960, officially presented by our side, reached 902.

Due to the U.S. war policy, South Korea of today, as even the bourgeois pressmen admit, "gives an impression of a huge military camp" and South Korea "has become a camp of the poor with a parasitic army."

As the war policy by the U.S. imperialists and their puppets became more naked, they are so anxious to form the "North-East Asian Treaty." The U.S. imperialists are attempting to complete comprehensive "Pacific Alliance" by forming the "North-East Asian Treaty" mainly composed of Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, following the formation of the so-called "ANZUS Treaty" and the "South-East Asian Treaty Organization."

Eisenhower came to South Korea on June 19, 1960, despite the opposition of the entire Korean people. He again spoke of the so-called "collective defence" and made provocative statements that the United States would give South Korea its "full assistance in accordance with the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact," and that part of America's huge military programme for armaments reinforcement was being put into effect. Thus, it was revealed that he was busy working to set up "Northeast Asia Military Alliance" and that he was scheming to unleash another war in Korea.

The top warmonger Eisenhower is naturally condemned by the people of goodwill in all lands for his aggressive schemes and provocative statements.

5. RUIN OF SOUTH KOREAN ECONOMY BY U.S. COLONIAL ENSLAVEMENT POLICY

Today the South Korean economy is in the grip of the U.S. imperialists and the national industry is going to total ruin.

The U.S. imperialists had no sooner landed in South Korea, than they seized the artery of the South Korean economy. Under Ordinance No. 2 of the U.S. Military Government on September 25, 1945, they seized the major branches of the South Korean economy. In less than five months after setting up their military rule, they put under their control all the properties formerly owned by the Japanese which meant 91 per cent of the total capital of the joint-stock companies and 94 per cent of the total industrial investment in South Korea.

Next they set about dismantling, closing down and selling off factories and enterprises, making a mess of South Korean industry. And this required very little time.

By 1948, the number of factories, large and small, had decreased to 5,249, nearly half compared with 9,323 in 1940 (*Monthly Statistics* of the "Bank of Korea," No. 6-7, 1949). During the same period, the total industrial output value went down to 21.2 per cent.

It was in the same year that the U.S. imperialists fabricated the puppet Syngman Rhee regime and concluded with Syngman Rhee a series of aggressive agreements.

The first economic agreement between the U.S. and South Korean regime is the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Initial Financial and Property Settlement" concluded on September 11, 1948. Under the "agreement" the properties controlled by the U.S. Military Government were nominally transferred to the Syngman Rhee regime. But Article 9-D of the supplement provision provides that the ownership of properties and appendages in South Korea, regardless of form, in which the U.S. government has an interest, shall at its request be transferred to it.

Also provided for in the agreement are the transfer of all debts incurred by the U.S. Military Government to the Syngman Rhee regime and the free use of any land and buildings by the U.S. troops in South Korea when they need them.

The scope of U.S. control and plunder has been "legally" expanded by the "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Economic Aid" concluded on December 10, 1948. Under this agree-

ment, the U.S. imperialists seized the right to control the whole economic life in South Korea. This "agreement" gave them the right to control the natural resources, production and distribution, issuance of bank notes, finance, credits, foreign exchange, exports and imports, forcible collection of rice, rationing food grains, etc.

Under the label of "aid" the U.S. ruling circles are executing an overall aggressive programme in South Korea. It is nothing but an influx in essence of U.S. monopoly capital to South Korea.

As is often the case, U.S. "aid" is of a military nature. And the U.S. "aid" to South Korea was no exception.

With the so-called economic "aid" the U.S. imperialists have made the puppet army their cannon fodder and subordinated the South Korean economy to their military purpose. As mentioned expressly in the "Mutual Security Law," the fundamental law governing U.S. "aid," the countries getting U.S. "aid" are obliged to conclude military agreements with the U.S., and must strengthen their armed forces and develop economy for that purpose.

In exchange for the "aid," the U.S. imperialists concluded with the Syngman Rhee regime the "ROK-U.S. Bilateral Agreement on Military Aid," "ROK-U.S. Agreement on Military Advisory Group," "ROK-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact," etc., militarizing South Korean economy and converting South Korea into a complete military base. It is all too clear that the U.S. "aid" is nothing but a means of carrying through their military aggressive policy and effecting their limitless plunder.

When the former U.S. President Truman submitted, on June 7, 1949, to the U.S. Congress a message requesting continuous "aid" to South Korea, Hoffman, head of the U.S. E.C.A. in South Korea, supported the President, saying quite frankly that the "aid" is nothing but a means of maintaining the U.S. privileges in the Far East with the least investment.

By December 1958, the U.S. imperialists had dumped in South Korea a total of 2,493 million dollars worth of surplus goods under the label of "aid." Their "aid" goods, mainly consumer goods, are sold at unreasonably high

prices fattening the U.S. monopoly capitalists with enormous profits. In 1955 the U.S. coal was sold at 30 dollars and 80 cent a ton in South Korea whereas it was sold at 15 dollars per ton in international markets. In 1956, the American robbers pressed the South Korean people to buy muscovado, international market price of which was 105 dollars per ton, at 170 dollars per ton.

Besides, they use land, buildings and other facilities without paying anything and burden the people with expenses for stationing their armed forces in South Korea. Had the U.S. government paid for all these, the sum would have reached 3,200 million dollars.

No small portion of the "counterpart funds" which comes from the sale of "aid" goods was directed to the military expenditure of the puppet regime, and part of the rest was used under the name of "economic rehabilitation fund" for building or expanding military establishments and facilities including highways, railways, ports, communication facilities and power stations.

According to the statistics released by the Bank of Korea, the amount of bank deposit in the name of "counterpart funds" from 1954 to 1958 was 577,922 million hwan, of which 378,647 million hwan, 66 per cent of the total, were used for militarizing economy through the "general account," "special account for economic rehabilitation," etc., of the puppet regime. Of the money, 152,490 million hwan was appropriated for the upkeep of the puppet army. The rest also was invested in or loaned to industrial branches connected with military supply.

Today, of the loan funds of "Industrial Bank," a monopoly issuing industrial funds, 54 per cent is taken up by this "counterpart funds," and in case of the "Agricultural Bank," the figure reaches 62 per cent.

The "Law on Management of Foreign Capital" drawn up by the Syngman Rhee clique on March 12, 1958, at the instruction of the U.S. provides that when the capital invested in an enterprise by foreign capitalists, that is, American capitalists, exceeds 50 per cent of the total, these foreign capitalists shall hold absolute power over the management.

The proportion of "counterpart funds" accounts for

30-40 per cent of the finance of South Korean regime. This shows how the budget of South Korean regime is made up and executed. In reality, the U.S. imperialists even have control over the working out of South Korean financial programme.

The "Joint ROK-U.S. Economic Board" holds the key in controlling South Korean economy. It fixes the exchange rate between the South Korean currency hwan and dollar, controls prices and purchases and distributes "aid" goods and has a voice in making up an economic plan, subjugating the South Korean economy to U.S. military purposes and facilitating the infiltration of more U.S. private capital into South Korea. To this end, the South Korean "Constitution" was amended in 1954 to reorganize the "government enterprises" into private management. Then the notorious "ROK-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Trade and Navigation" was concluded on November 28, 1956.

This treaty legalizes the activities of U.S. monopoly capitalists in trade, industry, finance and other profit-making enterprises in South Korea and provides them with the right to establish "branches," "agencies," "offices," and "factories."

An agreement on ensuring investment signed on February 19, 1960 between the U.S. and Syngman Rhee clique and the law on the introduction of foreign capital enacted on December 28, 1959 are also for facilitating the penetration into South Korea of U.S. private capital.

In the meantime, the sale of "government enterprises" and the work of putting those enterprises under private management were conducted briskly. According to the figure issued by the puppet regime, of the total 2,203 "custodian enterprises" (formerly Japanese-owned properties), 2,038 enterprises had been sold to private businessmen by August 1958.

To create a "favourable atmosphere" for foreign private capital in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists demanded the "stabilization of economy." The extreme economic chaos created after the war was not so inviting to U.S. private capital. Because of the enormous red figures caused by the

ever increasing military and police expenditure, the puppet regime faces a deep-going financial crisis. Compared with 1953, the military and police expenditure in 1955 increased by 96 billion hwan and in 1959 the figure increased by 155.2 billion hwan, whereas the red figures during the same period increased from 66.1 billion hwan to 123.3 billion hwan.

The volume of bank notes keeps swelling year after year. Taking 1945 as 100, the volume of currency in 1959 was 184,102, inevitably worsening the inflation.

Such being the case, the U.S. imperialists resorted to the "retrenchment policy" under the slogan of "stabilization of economy" to create a favourable "atmosphere" for their investment.

The policy, however, brings about nothing but the ruin of the national industry, medium and small industries in particular, as the financial expenditure including that for production is strictly checked, while military and police expenditure is being increased. Moreover, under this policy the rise of taxes is inevitable. Of the annual revenue of the South Korean regime, exclusive of that from the "counter-part fund" obtained by the sale of "aid" goods, 88.9 per cent came from taxes (monopoly revenue and loan bond included) in 1958. In 1960, it is expected the figure will reach 93.1 per cent.

Despite the insane "retrenchment policy," as of the end of March 1960, the volume of currency had swelled to 211,972 million hwan, 2,073 million hwan greater than at the end of 1959 according to the report of *Kyungje* (Economy) *News Agency* on April 20, 1960. And prices in January 1960 rose to 134.3 per cent compared with 1955.

These facts point to the aggravating unstableness of South Korean economy.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists keep increasing the exchange rate between the hwan and dollar in favour of the dollar, ever sharpening the crisis of South Korean economy. It was one dollar to 15 won in the early days of their occupation of South Korea. But it is now one dollar to 650 hwan since January 29, 1960. Until then it was fixed

at the 1:500 ratio from August 15, 1955. All at once a 30 per cent reduction in the value of South Korean currency.

It goes without saying that such a sharp reduction in the value of currency is accompanied by price rises bringing about a more vicious inflation. This hindered the infiltration of U.S. private capital.

The U.S. imperialists forced the puppet South Korean regime to pursue the "retrenchment policy." What was the result of the "retrenchment policy?"

There was a change in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar and the South Korean hwan. It brought to the U.S. imperialists additional profits. But the change of the exchange rate accelerated the inflation.

Under the name of "technical aid" they put the main arteries of the South Korean economy under their control. As a result, major enterprises in South Korea have to depend upon the U.S. monopoly enterprises for technique, raw materials, fuel and so on. Suffice it to say that by 1956 over 60 per cent of the textile factories were equipped with the U.S. outmoded machines.

Owing to the aggressive policy pursued by the U.S. imperialists under the name of "aid", the South Korean industry, poorly equipped, faces total ruin.

The South Korean industry is characterized by the reduction of its production scale, chronic suspension and curtailment of operation, the closing down of factories.

The following table in percentages will show the diminishing industry in South Korea.

	Enterprises with 1-49 employees	Enterprises with 50-99 employees	Enterprises with 100-199 employees	Enterprises with 200-999 employees	Enterprises with over 1,000 employees	Total
Jan. 1948	87.4	7.1	3.3	2.0	0.2	100
Jan. 1957	87.7	8.0	2.9	1.2	0.2	100

Source: *The Annual Economic Review* published by the "Bank of Korea" for 1949

The South Korean daily *Chosun Ilbo* dated February 17, 1957

As these figures reveal, as of January 1957 the number of enterprises with 1-49 employees each slightly increased, while the number of big enterprises with over 200 employees decreased. In other words, the enterprises in South Korea are going along the road of decline and ruin, from large to medium and from medium to small ones.

That the South Korean industry is on the downhill is clearly seen in its capital structure. The ratio between the fixed and working funds was 49 to 51 in the pre-liberation year of 1943, whereas it was 13 to 87 in 1958, showing a sharp drop in the share of the fixed capital. (The 1957 *Annual Economic Review*.)

According to the official data quoted by the South Korean magazine *Jaijung*, the ratio between assets and liabilities of the entire South Korean enterprises was 66 to 34 in 1936, whereas it was 31 to 69 in the latter half of 1955.

Such state of affairs inevitably led to the worsening of conditions of the South Korean enterprises. The fall-off in demand has compelled many enterprises to reduce or curtail their operation. In particular, medium and small enterprises went bankrupt in succession.

Here are some impressive figures showing the declining trend of enterprises.

Taking 1943 as 100, the number of enterprises with more than 5 employees each had fallen 85.7 per cent by October 1955 and 70.7 per cent by January 1957. In other words, 2,993 factories in South Korea went bankrupt during this period. The South Korean news agency *Tongyang Tongshin* reported that as of November 1958 the number of factories which had reduced their working hours or suspended operation stood at 75 per cent.

Such situation kept the production level extremely low. Industrial output value (manufacturing and processing industries) in 1958 was half that in the closing years of Japanese rule.

It goes without saying that such a stagnation in industrial production was a direct result of the difficulty of getting

funds, shrinking of markets, shortage of raw materials and power, in addition to the heavy taxes.

To be more exact, 50.8 per cent of those factories were compelled to reduce or suspend operation in the latter half of 1959 because of financial difficulties, 27.7 per cent dull market, 9.6 per cent heavy taxation, 1.8 per cent power shortage and 10.1 per cent shortage of raw materials. (The figures are based on the data released by the South Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry which made a survey of factories covering a range of 45 trades).

Such worsening situation of the South Korean industry makes South Korea dependent upon foreign goods more than ever before. Suffice it to point out that South Korea has to depend upon foreign countries for 80 to 90 per cent of its necessary industrial products.

The picture is also grim for agriculture. The U.S. colonial plundering policy has turned South Korea, once the granary, into a chronic famine-stricken area.

In February 1946, the U.S. colonialists renamed the "Oriental Development Company", the notorious Japanese set-up, the "New Korea Company," and made it own 13.4 per cent of the total acreage of the arable land. The "New Korea Company" had plundered the peasants of 2,714,650,000 won by March 1948.

In order to deceive and appease the South Korean peasants who, inspired by the Land Reform enforced in North Korea, came out in demand of land, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique set about effecting the spurious "agrarian reform" in October 1950. This step, of course, could not solve the agrarian problem inasmuch as the overwhelming majority of the peasants did not possess the means with which to buy land.

Moreover, the land which was distributed to tillers comprised but 26.1 per cent of all the land belonging to the Korean landowners.

What's more, the peasants have to deliver more than 50 per cent of the total harvest every year, notwithstanding the stipulation in the law of the "agrarian reform" which set the amount of delivery at 30 per cent of the average harvest

for five years. But actually 70-80 per cent of the total harvest is taken away as the yearly "redemption grain" when one adds in the "taxes on acquisition of the land".

Thus the system of feudal landownership and exploitation changed little. As the peasants' situation went from bad to worse, more than 50 per cent of "distributed" land again passed into the hands of landlords or rich peasants.

Meanwhile, the U.S. invaders have been pursuing a policy of turning South Korea into a market for the U.S. surplus agricultural produce. Import of huge amounts of the U.S. surplus grains has a fatal effect upon the agricultural development in South Korea.

Here are other factors that effect seriously the South Korean agriculture: the destruction of the irrigation facilities, the expropriation of land for military use, the reduction of the farm land caused by natural calamities, the oxidation of farm land which is the result of the forced use of the U.S. dumped fertilizers unfit for the South Korean soil, etc.

Even according to the data released by the puppet Seoul government, the average annual grain output in the period of 1954-1959 was only 70 per cent of that in the period between 1936 and 1940. Rice output fell 80 per cent, wheat 55 per cent, beans 60 per cent and other cereals 35 per cent.

Signs of depression are also found in the yield of industrial crops. For instance, cotton output decreased to 20 per cent during the same period.

6. RUIN OF NATIONAL CULTURE IN SOUTH KOREA

The main object of the cultural policy pursued by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea is to make the South Korean people their slaves and obliterate the national culture by imbuing them with the anti-communist ideology and

worship of America and spreading decadent "American way of life."

To this end, the U.S. imperialists employ every reactionary philosophy to infuse pragmatism, existentialism and modernism into the minds of the South Korean people. These ideologies now have become the prevailing ideas of the South Korean culture and arts.

As soon as the U.S. imperialists occupied South Korea, they suppressed in every way the progressive and democratic organizations and individuals in the fields of culture and arts. Many organizations were banned. From the first day of the U.S. occupation of South Korea up to February 1948, more than 630 writers and artists were arrested, put into prison or sentenced to death. Over 380 progressive teachers were forced out of schools.

Frightened by the surging spirit of men of culture for the country's peaceful unification against the tyranny and war policy of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, they sought out more vicious methods to suppress the sober-minded people in the fields of culture and arts and patriotic cultural activities. They passed through such draconic laws as "Rosters of Men of Culture", "Temporary Regulations on the Press," "Law on Theatrical Performances" and "Regulations on Theatres and Theatrical Performances."

While attempting to blot out the national culture of the Korean people the U.S. imperialists plundered and destroyed the precious heritage of our national culture.

They carried off over 8,000 volumes of rare books including the *Lijo Shillok* (Annals of the Li Dynasty), which had been preserved in Seoul University. During the Korean war the U.S. robbers took away over 1,300 items of art treasures from the museum in the Kyungbok Palace, over 6,000 from the Art Museum of the Duksoo Palace, over 100 from the Court Music Department of Royal Li Household, 125 from the museum in Kyungjoo. Altogether over 7,800 items of our precious cultural relics!

On top of this, numbers of our national treasures—the Chumsung-dai, one of the oldest observatories in the Orient, the Sukkoolam Grotto built in the 7th century A.D.,

Tongkyung-kwan House in Kyungjoo and the Jasung-dai in Pusanjin—are left to ruin.

That being the situation, the development of national culture is unthinkable. The U.S. imperialists and their lackeys openly say that the precious Korean national treasures are “useless articles beneath their notice,” or “outdated articles”.

Sensualism, nihilism, pessimism; anti-Soviet and anti-Communist campaign, “Glory to the U.S.,” so on and so forth, are typical of the subjects of novels, poems, songs and cinemas in South Korea.

The policy of the U.S. imperialists for encouraging the erotic literary works has driven the South Korean arts and literature to horrible decadence and ruin. Such works as “Zone of Unrest” and “Sorrows of Ebebe” are cases in point. Heroes in these novels violate their mothers!

Today, in South Korea, decadent American films to stimulate sensual instinct monopolize every movie house. Most films produced in South Korea are nothing but a rehash of American eroticism. In January 1959, Syngman Rhee, after seeing movies “For the Sake of Love” and “Free Marriage” full of eroticism and corruption advocated the production of more such films.

The U.S. colonial enslavement policy also finds vivid expression in the field of education.

Maintaining the Japanese colonial enslavement education system, they dissolved by force the democratic educational organizations newly established following liberation. And many schools were closed down.

On March 4, 1946, the U.S. Military Government issued the so-called “Regulations on the Abolition of Unauthorized Schools.” It was followed by the issue of the so-called “Standard Regulation on Establishing Universities” in August 1955 and “Standard Regulation on Establishing Middle and High Schools” in May 1958. Needless to say, its object was to shut down a large number of schools.

Under these “regulations,” 186 schools at all levels were closed down during the period 1953-1957 alone. In 1959, 39 public or private high schools were forcibly closed

down, in addition to 31 colleges and middle and high schools closed down in 1958. Besides, a great number of class-rooms and lecture-halls were taken over by the U.S. army and the puppet ROK army for military uses.

That being the situation, it is not difficult to imagine how the educational facilities in South Korea fare now.

The number of class-rooms of primary schools in short stood at 32,220, that of middle and high schools 5,421 and universities 7,010. (The South Korean news agency *Tongyang Tongshin* dated September 22, 1959 and October 9.) And the number of outmoded class-rooms in primary schools alone amounted to 5,139. (South Korean news agency *Tonga Tongshin* May 5, 1959.)

Huge "contributions" imposed by the puppet government prevent sons and daughters of the working people from attending schools.

In 1959, the "authorized contributions" per capita in primary schools amounted to 1,200 hwan, in public and private middle schools to 52,000-78,200 hwan, in public and private high schools to 54,400-82,700 hwan, in state and public universities to 124,000-162,400 hwan. Besides, the students have to pay various kinds of fees. The annual amount of "parents' association contribution" in primary schools comes to 50 billion hwan and that of other "contributions" to 5 billion hwan. (The South Korean daily *Tonga Ilbo* dated June 25, 1959 and *Chosun Ilbo* dated December 7, 1959.)

Today the number of children who cannot go to school stands at over 446,000 (not counting 568,000 orphans). Under such circumstances, it is little surprise that the number of illiterate people above age of 15 makes up 62.8 per cent of the South Korean population.

The reactionary character of the educational policy of the U.S. imperialists and their puppet regime also finds vivid expression in the content of education.

Under the catchword of "anti-Communist education" and "moral education" they are making frantic efforts to justify the U.S. imperialists' colonial policy towards Korea and the traitorous policy of the puppet regime. Obviously their aim is to keep the students from understanding the laws of social development and paralyse class consciousness.

Article 2 of the "Law on Education" of the puppet regime stipulates that the basic aim of education is to train students who can enjoy "a harmonious life." And Article 1 of the "Regulation Relating to Primary Schools" stipulates that the national education aims at "training children in the spirit of co-operation in the social life." This is based on the reactionary theory of John Dewey, that is, to cultivate the people's character in conformity to the capitalist society where exploitation and oppression prevail. In other words, they are trying to justify their reactionary rule.

To this end, they are intensifying the anti-Communist education. They slander Communism and praise the capitalist system; they slander proletarian internationalism and advocate cosmopolitanism. They slander the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Chinese People's Republic and the Soviet Union, raving about "March North."

To carry out such enslavement education, the puppet regime's Ministry of Education made public in April 1954, the "standard regulation on school curriculum" with a view to further intensifying the "anti-Communist moral education." As a measure of infusing reactionary ideology into students, hours for natural science are reduced to the minimum and more time is allotted to the reactionary idealistic education.

Another characteristic of education in South Korea is that the schools have been turned into the military training centres for the puppet army. They consider students expendables in the nuclear war to be fought in the interests of American Big Business.

To intensify the military training of the students, the U.S. imperialists and their puppet regime formed the "Central Students National Defence Corps" in April 1949. And then branches of the "Students National Defence Corps" were formed at schools of all levels.

In 1954 they made public the "military training programme." Under this programme the high school students have to go through a 196-hour military training annually. Besides the military training, college students have to join in mass training.

7. DIRE STRAITS OF THE SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE

The colonial predatory and war policies of the U.S. imperialists in South Korea have driven the South Korean economy into utter bankruptcy. Never in the 4,000 years of Korea's history had the people suffered so much as they are now suffering in the southern part of the country. The ever worsening life of the South Korean people is to be seen in the shrinking "national income."

According to the official data released by the South Korean journal *Jaijung* (January issue of 1957 and May issue of 1958) and the *Monthly Statistics* of the "Bank of Korea," the per capita income dropped when the rise of prices is taken into account: Taking 1949 as 100, in 1955 it was reduced to 70.3 per cent and 60.2 per cent in 1958.

The South Korean magazine *Jinsang* (February 1959 issue) wrote that the per capita income in South Korea was 56 dollars, half of what it was in Thailand, whose national income was one of the lowest in Asia, and one fourth compared with Ceylon.

The nominal wages of the South Korean workers were no more than one-third of the minimum living expenses.

Miscellaneous predatory taxes and sky-rocketing prices have systematically reduced the real wages of the working people.

In comparison with living expenses the average monthly wages of the workers of manufacturing industry in Seoul have been reduced systematically: to 43 per cent in 1955, to 41 per cent in 1956, and to 38 per cent in 1957 (*Annual Economic Review*, 1958). Compared with December 1957, in December 1958 retail price index went up by 7.3 per cent while the monetary wages of workers went

down by 6 per cent again (the February 1959 issue of *Monthly Statistics* of the "Bank of Korea"). Prices of South Korea are the highest in the world. Retail prices in Seoul had jumped more than 41,000 times by June 1959 compared with June 1945, prior to liberation, and 4 times compared with 1953, when the truce came in Korea. Taking September 1955 as 100, in January 1960 they went up to 134.3 per cent, especially the prices of industrial products and import commodities to 180.2 per cent.

Along with the growth of military and police expense of the puppet regime the amount of taxes imposed upon the people went up. In 1957 it increased to 529 per cent, in 1959 to 1,091 per cent and in 1960 to 1,389 per cent compared with 1953.

The South Korean workers do not receive even the starvation wages regularly. Very often they are withheld for 3 or 4 months. Sometimes more than one year.

In South Korea 34.8 per cent of the number of workers' struggles were for the immediate payment of back wages. Such being the case, it is easy to imagine how 5 million unemployed and semi-unemployed live. (The figure is based on the South Korean daily *Sanup Kyungje Shinmoon* dated March 5, 1959.)

The peasants' life, too, is in the depth of misery. Although the peasants account for 70 per cent of the population in South Korea, their income is less than 37 per cent of the total national income. The following figures will tell how the peasants fare in South Korea where poverty rules (*Kyungje Tongshin* dated June 17, 1959).

Growth of Debts of Peasant Households
(Debts in kind are converted into money)

(unit: hwan)

	The total volume of debts	The volume of average debts per peasant household
May 1953	9 billion	4,036
November 1954	18 „	8,971

October 1956	88.5 billion	40,227
October 1957	109 „	49,089
December 1958	120 „	54,500
October 1959	155.1 „	69,873

Data released by South Korean "Agricultural Bank"

The South Korean journal *Jaijung* wrote that the root cause of poverty which the South Korean peasants undergo lies in the social system itself.

The "Department of Agriculture and Forestry" of the puppet government admitted that the average annual grain yield of peasant households cultivating less than one jungbo of land is no more than eleven suk.

From the yield of eleven suk, nine suk is deducted as the taxes, usury interests, and fertilizer prices, leaving only two suk for each peasant household with an average of 6.2 family members. Therefore, in three or four months after harvesting peasants run out of provisions. As of the end of 1958, of the total peasant households of over 2,218,000, the number of households that tilled less than one jungbo was 1,610,000, or 72.6 per cent, and more than 940,000 peasant households tilled less than 0.5 jungbo. From these facts one can easily see that under the U.S. colonial rule starvation is inevitable in the rural villages of South Korea (*Hapdong Tongshin* of June 17, 1959). Every year the number of foodless peasant households stands at one million. They live on grass roots and tree bark. Many die of starvation. By the autumn of 1958, some 400,000 peasant households amounting to 18 per cent of the entire peasant households left their native villages driven by hunger (*Seke Tongshin* of September 10, 1958).

A U.P. correspondent wrote that poverty and unemployment was the people's lot in South Korea. On the one hand, a handful of the rich are the smug, rolling in luxury. On the other, the overwhelming majority of the people are leading a hard life.

The actual life of all office employees, men of culture,

medium and small enterprisers, youth and students (except a handful of comprador capitalists, landlords and high officials) is literally a nightmare.

The youth and students of South Korea are pressganged into the puppet army. Education and employment are denied to them. On November 7, 1959, *Tongyang Tongshin* reported that "under the pretext of 'checking the draft dodgers' the 'ROK' MPs are picking up youth and middle-aged people in the street... And some of those middle-aged people are on official business or on their way to offices..."

Several kinds of contributions and scores of kinds of miscellaneous taxes including high education fee are imposed upon the South Korean students and their parents. That's why the sons and daughters of the working people in South Korea cannot attend school. Even though some of them manage somehow to be enrolled in schools, they are driven out by the school authorities because they cannot pay education fee. Job hunting is a big headache for the college and university graduates. Even according to the reduced figures published by the puppet authorities the rate of employment of the college and university graduates keeps decreasing: in 1956 it dropped to 30 per cent, in 1957 to 25 per cent and in 1958 to 20 per cent.

The medium- and small-scale enterprises, too, are on the verge of bankruptcy. Even according to the official data of the puppet government, more than 2,500 medium- and small-scale undertakings ruined between November 1955 and December 1957.

From July 1953, when the truce was attained in Korea, to 1955, over 120,000 medium and small traders joined the army of unemployed (*Chosun Ilbo* of January 8, 1956).

Even according to the data officially announced by the "Department of Public Health and Social Affairs" of the puppet government, various diseases are threatening the life of the South Korean people. The average people's longevity shrank from 37 in 1952 to 33 in 1955.

According to the South Korean newspapers, there are more than 2,100,000 tuberculous cases and 200,000 leprosy cases and distoma patients amount to 6,000,000 in South Korea. But no medical care is available for them.

No wonder, the difficulty of living leads to the cause of increasing suicide cases. Even according to the abridged figures released by the puppet police the number of suicides increased from the average daily number of 0.9 in 1956 to 3.9 in 1957. (In 1957 there were 1,443 cases in Seoul alone.)

While the number of the unemployed who died of starvation in Seoul alone during the first ten months in 1957 reached 821. It was 606 in only one month in the summer of 1959.

On top of this, the untold barbarous acts perpetrated by the aggressive U.S. army add to the misery of the South Korean people.

In South Korea tragic incidents follow one after another: The sacking of residential village, Yongjoo-dong, Joonai Sub-county, Pajoo County on April 16, 1957 by 80 U.S. MPs, the pressing of a Korean boy in a wooden box, etc. Murders, violence, pillage and rape are daily occurrences.

Without paying any attention to the untold misery and hardships of the people, the puppet ruling circles stop at nothing in fattening themselves. Syngman Rhee pocketed a cool 50 billion hwan. There are the notorious 1952 and 1956 tungsten cases. The two great criminal cases in the "Department of Agriculture and Forestry" in 1954, the misappropriation of food grain by the successive ministers of the "Department of Agriculture and Forestry" exposed in 1954, the embezzlement cases in the financial circles in 1954, depilatory soap incident in the "ROK" army in 1958, the embezzlement of funds of the Industrial Bank, not to speak of the smuggling and black-market activities of the U.S. soldiers.

Dirty criminal acts of Syngman Rhee embezzling people's properties were being brought to light one after another following his ouster by the heroic resistance of the South Korean people. This aroused the more furious resentment of the people.

According to the South Korean press reports, embezzlement and swindling by the Syngman Rhee clique during the March 15 "elections" depleted the finance of South Korea and a number of banks now find themselves forced to

close the door.

"Minister of Finance" Yoon Ho Byung disclosed recently at the puppet "National Assembly" the usurpation of 37 million dollars by Syngman Rhee and his right-hand man Li Ki Boong also pocketed 1,870 million hwan as "election campaign funds."

Former chairman of the General Affairs Committee of the "Liberal Party" who was in charge of securing "election campaign funds" revealed that they disposed of 15 billion hwan through the former "Minister of Finance" Song In Sang and the former "President" of the Industrial Bank" Kim Yung Chan.

According to the South Korean press reports, Syngman Rhee deposited a huge sum of misappropriated money in banks in America, Switzerland and Japan.

According to foreign press reports, Syngman Rhee deposited 5 million dollars worth of gold bars in a Japanese bank during the Korean war. Former South Korean Ambassador to Japan Ryoo Tai Ha plotted to send it to Syngman Rhee who has absconded to Hawaii.

According to *Kyungje Tongshin*, Syngman Rhee personally misappropriated at least 50 million dollars during the past twelve years. Foreign dispatches reported that this money was sent abroad through Syngman Rhee's wife Alice, ambassadors and secretaries.

As for Li Ki Boong, he became the owner of many big enterprises, newspaper office and vast land and his bank deposits in America and in South Korea amounted to a round figure of fifty million dollars, according to an A.F.P. report. "Home Minister" Choi In Kyoo had 600 million hwan in the bank when Syngman Rhee was kicked out, the former "Minister of Finance" In Tai Shik made a neat pile of 500 million hwan while in office for one year and Ambassador to Japan Ryoo Tai Ha deposited 20 million dollars by selling passports alone. The South Korean journal *Shintaiyang* (January 1959) wrote that it was common practice for the government officials, high and low, to indulge in such plunders and violations. As a saying has it, "Monkey see, monkey do," the same journal ridiculed that lower government officials follow the "examples" of the high up. Then

the lawful acts of civilians are treated as "unlawful" while unlawful acts of government officials with black market money are painted as "lawful".

8. SYNGMAN RHEE'S FASCIST RULE

With the appearance of the puppet regime the sharp contradiction and antagonism arose between the colonial policy of the U.S. imperialists in South Korea and the Syngman Rhee's treacherous rule on the one hand and the popular masses on the other. The twelve years of existence of the Syngman Rhee puppet regime was only possible because it was propped up with the bayonet of the U.S. imperialists, the same bayonet that produced the regime.

The U.S. imperialists, in an attempt to stave off the aggravating political crisis and maintain their tottering colonial system in South Korea, extended their bureaucratic machine to the maximum on the strength of the military and police force and intensified the dictatorship of Syngman Rhee, their watch-dog.

The U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique, who adopted the "Presidential system" under the "Constitution" (promulgated in July 1948), turned the "National Assembly" and "courts" into appendages of the administration.

Thus the "government" is not to depend on the confidence of the "National Assembly", and the "President" is vested with the legal right to make null and void any resolution of the "National Assembly" that is not to his liking.

The London *Times* wrote: "With the pretentious National Assembly, the government is a dictatorial body. South Korea has its Constitution, but the President is vested with the extraordinary right even to make null and void that which is provided for in the Constitution. Ministers are not vested with any right to act independently."

Such "Presidential system" of despotic dictatorship was framed up by the U.S. imperialists only to facilitate their colonial aggression by installing their faithful running-dog in Presidency.

But this was not enough for the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique. In order to reinforce the dictatorship of Syngman Rhee and to extend the power of the "President", they systematically worked out fascist measures. In 1954, they submitted to the "National Assembly" a bill to amend the Constitution and railroaded it through by the outrageous method of "counting fractions of 0.5 and over as a whole number and disregarding the rest". (The bill aimed to ensure the lifetime Presidency of Syngman Rhee by revising the clause on prohibiting the President from being reelected upon the expiration of his term.)

In 1955 they, disregarding the "premiership system", instituted the "system of senior member of state council" and concentrated all the power in the hands of the "President." Also they invalidated the approval by the "National Assembly" on forming the "state council", and on "joint responsibility system of state council."

To suppress the growing dissensions and enmity among the ruling circles in the "National Assembly" which has not a single representative of workers and peasants and does not reflect the genuine will of the people, the Syngman Rhee clique, having secured the posts of "chairman, vice-chairman, and 14 sub-committee chairmen" of the "National Assembly", suppressed the activities of opposition members.

The "National Assembly" consisting of capitalists, landlords and officials with no representative of the working people cannot guarantee the interests of the people in any form by law. This can be explained by the "National Diet Law" which, while allowing the people to submit their opinion to the "National Assembly" in the form of petition, bars them in reality from sending in their petition, demanding that the petition be endorsed with recommendations of three or more "National Assembly" members. And even the petitions submitted with such difficulty is liable to be turned down on the ground that they are in contravention of law

and regulations, interfere with legal procedures or contain abuse against the administration (Article 71).

At the same time Syngman Rhee did his utmost to consolidate his fascist ruling system by replacing higher officials of the puppet government with his faithful underlings. In the period from September 1956 to October alone, he dismissed from administrative, police, financial and educational organs 31,793 officials of opposition party origin, on the charge of disobedience to his order.

To realize their economic and military aggressive aims, the U.S. imperialists made the Syngman Rhee clique carry out before anything else the political oppression and slavish subjugation policy to repress the struggle of the Korean working people for democratic rights and freedom, as well as right to existence. With this in view, they employed strong fascist methods or open terrorist violence, and at the same time they committed police violence under the cloak of legal procedures in accordance with the most anti-popular fascist laws.

To expose the true nature of their fascist system, it is enough to cite only a few of their many notorious laws: "State Security Law", "Law on the Registration of Political Parties", "Regulations on the Press and Periodicals" and "Labour Regulations."

The "State Security Law" was enforced in December 1948. This law consisting of only five articles is the reproduction of the "Law for the Maintenance of Public Order" enforced by the Japanese imperialists, and under this law the U.S. imperialists and their puppets are suppressing all patriotic, democratic associations and assembly, as well as all political activities, speeches and the press. Syngman Rhee who was vested with the authority to disband any association or assembly, employed this evil law to suppress or disband at random those which did not suit his taste, with the result that the number of the arrested reached some 118,621 in 1949 alone. (Report of the U.N. Commission on Korea.) They amended this evil law in December 1949 when, under the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, they were intensifying mass suppression of the people under the slogan: "march north, unite the country and

consolidate the rear." The "revised law" covering 18 articles has further extended the conception of "crimes" and added severity in punishment. Thus not only the organizations which are not liking to the Syngman Rhee clique, but also those persons affiliated with such organizations are liable to punishment, and even those who "show sympathy with the accused" are arrested and jailed. The scope of punishment was also extended; life imprisonment was replaced by death penalty and other prison terms were prolonged. In April 1950, the Syngman Rhee clique again revised the regulations relating to punishment provided for in the "State Security Law."

The revised "State Security Law" enacted in December 1958 consists of 40 articles. It has not only extended the conception of "crime" but also extended the scope of death and heavy penalties. The Syngman Rhee clique gave a free hand to the police in charging innocent people with crime in disregard of the evidence but only on the basis of "the inquiry records" made up by the police by means of torture. The revised "State Security Law" stipulates that any press organ which reveals the treacherous acts of Syngman Rhee himself, his puppet government and the unlawful acts of the officials of the puppet government organs shall be punished on the charge of "defamation."

The "Regulations on the Press and Periodicals" were promulgated on the basis of Usamgik Ordinance No. 88. Under these "regulations," the Syngman Rhee clique completely trampled underfoot the freedom of the press with the sole exception of the organ of the "Liberal Party," discontinued or closed down the press. They resorted to terrorism against publication organs under the charge of "sedition" or "unsound periodicals." Thus 153 periodicals were discontinued by force in 1958-59, beginning with the "*Kyung-hyang Shinmoon*," the organ of the "Democratic Party," in 1959.

Along with the political machinations including concoction of such evil laws, the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique have been reinforcing the fascist military and police machines for the purpose of suppressing the popular masses.

Since the cease-fire, they have increased the puppet army to more than 630,000, made desperate attempt to equip them with atomic weapons. They have increased the thought police approximately two-fold and expanded the "police volunteer fire-brigade" to nearly 500,000 persons, thereby covering the whole territory of South Korea with the network of the police. Today South Korea has become a police state with more than 33,000 policemen, far surpassing the number at the time of Japanese imperialist rule in proportion to the population.

Fascist military and police machines, employing all kinds of outrageous methods such as violence, terrorism, and torture, are openly carrying out a horrible terrorist rule, unheard-of in the history of our country.

During the period from the country's liberation to June 1950, they arrested more than 478,000 and killed 200,000 patriots of the arrested.

The murderous atrocities by the Syngman Rhee clique became more cruel during the war years. Horrifying mass murder cases by the cursed Syngman Rhee clique are being continuously exposed by the bereft family members, according to the recent fragmentary reports of the South Korean press.

Ten years ago, the Syngman Rhee clique killed at random innocent people branding them as "reds"; in Pusan they drove them by trucks to the seaside and, after binding them in tens or twenties with wire, kicked them into the sea. They massacred over 1,400 innocent people by the same cruel methods in Hamyang, Sanchung and Kuhchang; over 800 in Choongmoo city and Tongyung County; over 600 in Imshil and Soonchun counties; nearly 600 in Kachang Sub-county, Dalsung County; over 400 in Yoochi Sub-county, Jangheung County.

Their fascist oppression became more desperate during the post-war years. In 1955-59, the number of the people who were arrested by the Syngman Rhee clique reached some 871,700. Whereas the number in 1955 was some 114,500, it increased to 247,135 in 1959.

Moreover, the puppet police arrested innocent people on

false charges framed up under cruel torture. Pointing out the fact that out of 10,090 persons who had been arrested by the police during the one year from September 1956 to August 1957 only 5,657, or 60 per cent, were put on trials at the Seoul District Court, the *Kyungghyang Shimoon* (December 12, 1957) wrote that this furnished eloquent proof that the "confessions" of the accused were framed up by the police through inhuman method of interrogation.

Lawlessness and unlawfulness, bloody barbarous suppression—all this found expression during the "election" period. All elections of Syngman Rhee were fabricated in the whirl of fascist, terrorist oppression, but the "Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections" on March 15, 1960, were the sum total of the most barbarous and murderous oppression and shameless, gangster-like fabrication.

According to the *Haptong Tongshin*, Han Hi Suk, Vice-Chairman of the "Liberal Party" confessed after the ouster of Syngman Rhee from the Presidency that the "Caucus Meeting" and the "Election Campaign Committee" of the "Liberal Party" instructed their subordinates to "stop at nothing in carrying out the unfair elections by mobilizing police and ruffians" and, if their plan did not work well, change the ballot-boxes with the ones which they had prepared in advance."

According to the confession made by Choi In Kyoo, former puppet "Home Minister," he ordered, as he was directed by Syngman Rhee, policemen to kill anybody who opposed the "elections," burn down the ballot boxes and machine-gun the people if they stop or obstruct the election officials from doing irregularities.

The "Home Ministry" threatened county heads, police chiefs, even down to district chiefs that it was either their necks or 85 per cent "yes" votes.

Li Kang Hak, chief of the puppet "Internal Security Bureau," had oaths from the members of the "secret police." He told the men if they failed to carry out the orders they would be shot.

As they planned, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique made the so-called March 15 elections a day of slaughter. A state of emergency was proclaimed all over South Korea and each polling station was thickly fenced off with policemen, MPs and terrorists. Throughout South Korea, election observers from the opposition parties were either thrown out of the polling stations or arrested before the "voting" started. Every ballot box was stuffed with forty per cent of the ballots when the "voting" began!

The voters were compelled to cast "open votes." In Recheon County, North Kyungsang Province, and in many other places police chiefs and county officers at the polling stations personally forced the voters to cast votes in favour of Syngman Rhee and Li Ki Boong. If the voting did not proceed as they expected, then the Syngman Rheeites replaced the ballot boxes altogether with those they had prepared (South Korean news agency *Hapdong Tongshin*).

When the voters refused to vote openly or voted against Syngman Rhee and his running mate they were assaulted on the spot. In several districts of the port city of Pusan 20 odd voters were assaulted by groups of police in plain clothes and terrorists. According to the South Korean news agency *Tongyang Tongshin* the number of voters who were assaulted for refusing votes was uncountable.

As instructed by the Syngman Rhee clique the puppet soldiers and policemen fired at some 10,000 demonstrators in Masan who were shouting about the invalidity of "elections." Some 70 people were killed or wounded.

Then the U.S. imperialists hurriedly attempted to disassociate themselves from the criminal behavior of Syngman Rhee. On the 16th of March, the very day following the elections, U.S. President Eisenhower said that he had no information on any violation of democratic rights in South Korea.

The fascist and terrorist rule of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique has turned South Korea into a big prison and a death cell.

9 ERUPTION OF THE SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE'S INDIGNATION. CRISIS FOR U.S. COLONIAL RULE IN SOUTH KOREA

The colonial enslavement policy pursued by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea and the traitorous country-selling misrule by the Syngman Rhee clique have aggravated the grave contradiction between imperialism and the masses of the South Korean people.

Nothing else but U.S. occupation of South Korea and the grinding tyranny by the national traitors are responsible for all the misfortunes and calamities that the South Korean people suffer in political, economic, social, and cultural life.

The number of those who are awakened to the law of historical development keeps increasing in South Korea as days go by.

The anti-U.S., anti-Syngman Rhee sentiment has been mounting among the entire people. They have risen up and fought heroically for the improvement of their livelihood, freedom, democratic rights and for the peaceful unification of the country.

Already from the early days of the occupation of South Korea by U.S. troops, the South Korean people started their stubborn struggle against the U.S. policy of aggression.

Eloquent proof of this is the 40,000 railway workers' strike on September 24, 1946, the popular uprisings in Taegu in October 1946, the general strike called by 200,000 workers on March 22, 1947, then the national salvation struggle of the patriotic forces in South Korea started on February 7 in 1948, and so forth.

These struggles served to show the firm determination

of the Korean people to oppose and reject U.S. aggression and not to become slaves again.

In the post-war period, the dictatorship and oppression by U.S. imperialism and reactionary forces in South Korea intensified the people's struggles. Especially noteworthy was the ever increasing militancy of the workers.

Growth of the Workers' Strikes in South Korea

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cases of strikes	90	126	129	152	238

The workers gave up appeals, petitions, negotiations, protests and litigations and resorted to strikes. Their struggle began to assume a political character, strengthening their solidarity and ties.

In the meantime the South Korean peasants' struggle has been intensified. According to partial data reported by the South Korean press, the number of the peasant troubles increased from 47 in 1955 to 110 in 1956, to 234 in 1957. It went down to 138 in 1958 but rose again to 182 in 1959. In protest against inhuman exploitation, the peasants are united and are waging a mass struggle.

The youth and students in South Korea are showing resolute resistance against the compulsory conscription. The number of the draft dodgers is growing. The number of the rural youth evading military service, South Korean press estimated, had reached 100,000 by 1956. In 1958 alone 82,000 youth did not show up for physical examination and in 1959 the figure went up to 136,000.

Recently it has been reported that three to four soldiers on the average flee from every company of the ROK army. Some 50,000 men were reported to have deserted by 1957. It is estimated that more than half of the prisoners in the Taegu military detention camp and its branches in every province are deserters.

Between January and September 1959, students went on strikes on 64 occasions, demanding an end to school

racketeering and militarization of schools. Students are demanding the democratization of education.

The South Korean people's resistance found vivid expression in the "Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections" and the "National Assembly elections."

In the third "Presidential elections" in 1956, Syngman Rhee with all his foul methods could rake in only 52 per cent of the votes as against 74 per cent in the second "Presidential elections." Particularly, in Seoul and in five provinces including South Kyungsang Province, 70-80 per cent of the votes were against Syngman Rhee. In the elections to the fourth "National Assembly" in 1958, the Syngman Rheeites lost 5 seats. In the elections 4,969,716 votes or 57.9 per cent of the total votes cast were against the Syngman Rhee's Liberal Party candidates. When the votes were counted in Seoul, all Liberal Party candidates were defeated at all the 16 polling stations with only one exception. In such cities as Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju, Chonju, Taejon and Inchon, the results were the same as in Seoul.

The defeat the Liberal Party suffered in cities where national capitalists and merchants maintain much influence serves to show that the anti-Rhee feeling was mounting among the people of broad strata, to say nothing of the working masses.

The situation created in South Korea shows that the political crisis in South Korea under U.S. occupation is becoming more acute. Antagonism and conflicts among the puppet ruling circles are sharpening.

In recent years, hostility between the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party has worsened, the conflict between the "main group" and "auxiliary group" of the Liberal Party following its setback in the fourth "National Assembly" elections in 1958 is more deeply rooted, and the feud between the "old group" and the "new group" in the Democratic Party has become more intense. The political chaos resulted from the merger and split of various parties, small and big.

Following the elections to the fourth "National Assembly", the Liberal Party left no stone unturned for obtaining two-thirds of the seats in the "National Assembly", which

they had failed to fabricate in the elections. By taking advantage of election irregularities committed by the Democratic Party and the internal strife within the Democratic Party, the Liberal Party declared the election of certain Democratic Party members null and void, tried to win over the independent members by bribery, and to disunite the Democratic Party from within.

The Democratic Party in turn, in order to consolidate its political ground and be victorious in the 1960 "Presidential and Vice-President elections," adopted anti-government tactics, craftily taking advantage of the mounting anti-American, anti-Syngman Rhee sentiments among the South Korean people and exposing the evil consequences of the Syngman Rhee misrule.

The scramble between ins and outs for power was further aggravated. More than 20 draconic laws, including the revised "State Security Law," were railroaded through the puppet "National Assembly" by the Syngman Rhee clique in December 1958 with the help of the police. Because of this scramble between the two Liberal and Democratic parties, the puppet "National Assembly" was completely paralyzed throughout the year of 1959.

In the face of such political crisis the Syngman Rhee clique could not expect to win in the "Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections" on March 15, 1960. Consequently they had to cook up victory in the "elections". They resorted to every fascist terrorist method, fraud and trickery. But this led to the eruption of the resentment and wrath of the South Korean people, which had been accumulating for many years. Especially in Masan over 10,000 citizens and students held demonstrations on the election day, denouncing the trickery and cruel oppression by the Syngman Rhee clique. The demonstrators surrounded the Masan City Hall where the official counting of votes was to be made, and declared the "elections" null and void. The demonstrators burnt or destroyed five police boxes and the office of the Masan Branch of the Liberal Party.

The Masan citizens rose again on April 11 and in three days the uprising grew in scope and strength

This uprising enkindled the flames of mass resistance throughout South Korea.

Following the popular uprisings in Masan, the people rose up in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Inchon, Chonju, Kwangju, Chungju, Chongju, Taejun, Mokpo, Milyang, Ryusu, Hamyang and other places throughout South Korea.

The people held peaceful demonstrations shouting slogans: "We Want New Elections!" "Give Us Freedom!" "Ensure Democratic Rights!" But on April 19, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique proclaimed the "Emergency Martial Law" and hurled in the 15th Division of the puppet army led by a tank company under the "U.N. Command" against the demonstrators. The people did not yield, on the contrary they began to riot.

Despite the barbarous suppression by the puppet police and army, the demonstrators pressed on shouting, "Down with the Syngman Rhee Government!" "Down with the Corrupt Rule!" "Down with the Police State!" Then they burnt offices of the Liberal Party and puppet government organs. The Seoul citizens tore down the South Korean puppet regime's flag from the "Central Government building" and trampled down it. On April 26, some 100,000 demonstrators marched along the street dragging the statue of traitor Syngman Rhee.

On April 26, the resistance became more intense, and more than 100,000 Seoul citizens finally succeeded in compelling Syngman Rhee to promise to resign from presidency and to hold new elections.

The people in Seoul attacked and destroyed the "U.S.O.M.," a U.S. aggressive tool, and tried to bring down the statue of the notorious General MacArthur, the butcher of the Korean people. They also surrounded the U.S. Embassy, pandemonium of the aggressors in Korea. Americans in the street were showered with stones.

These facts clearly show that the uprising of the South Korean people is the eruption of the pent-up indignation of the masses towards not only the country-selling rule of Syngman Rhee but towards the colonial policy of the U.S. imperialists.

Thanks to the stubborn resistance of the South Korean

people Syngman Rhee was driven out of the office of presidency and the "prestige" of his patron—U.S. imperialism—fell to the ground and the foundation of the colonial rule received an irreparable blow. Panic-stricken U.S. imperialists plotted to save their tottering base for aggression. They set up the "Command for the Enforcement of Martial Law" and barbarously suppressed the struggling masses. At the same time they framed up the "caretaker government" by putting up a new puppet, Huh Chung, in place of Syngman Rhee.

They are busy with their scheme to deceive and placate the people. New-elections, certain "improvements" and "reforms," and restoration of "democracy" were promised to the people, only in words.

They allege that the root cause of misfortunes and tribulations of the South Korean people can be removed by introducing the "cabinet responsibility system" through the "revision of the Constitution." But no constitutional amendments under U.S. occupation can change the nature of the fascist regime in the South. Replacing the "Presidential system" with the "cabinet responsibility system" means only that "Premier," instead of "President," will maintain the colonial fascist rule.

All the latest events clearly show that the "caretaker government" is nothing else than an extension and a re-hash of the puppet Syngman Rhee regime.

The "Joint Statement" made by McConaughy, U.S. Ambassador to South Korea, and Huh Chung on April 29, revealed that Huh Chung's caretaker government will more faithfully carry out the U.S. predatory policy than Syngman Rhee. According to the "statement", it "vowed to maintain close contact" with the U.S. and McConaughy made public that the present "caretaker government" would receive all-out support of the U.S. government.

The U.S. imperialists are set to maintain all the existing puppet ruling organs including the puppet "State Council" and "National Assembly." Only they are working to institute a "cabinet responsibility system" by amending the "Constitution." And "new elections," leaving the reactionary election laws intact, are promised. The U.S. imperialists and

Huh Chung clique, in an attempt to tighten the suppression of the people, are trying to maintain all notorious evil laws including the "State Security Law." The U.S. is encouraging the Huh Chung clique to keep blowing the "Anti-Communist" trumpet which Syngman Rhee tooted so noisily in order to suppress the people.

But this is not all. As the voice of the people for punishment of the traitor, Syngman Rhee, increased in volume Huh Chung took Syngman Rhee away to the U.S. by plane in the early morning of May 29. The U.S. imperialists instructed Huh Chung to organize Rhee's escape for fear that if Syngman Rhee, the old fascist and traitor who had massacred the South Korean people and committed all sorts of country-selling crimes, is put on trial by the people, their sanguinary aggressive acts and crimes would come to light.

Syngman Rhee, who came to Korea from the U.S. by a special U.S. airplane 15 years ago, fled to the U.S. again. But nothing can cover up the vicious crimes Syngman Rhee committed. Nor can the U.S. imperialist aggressors who are responsible for the crimes hide their aggressive acts.

This is well proved by the fact that the South Korean people are waging a more stubborn struggle after the Rhee's escape. Encouraged by the Appeal of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea addressed to the South Korean people on April 21 in connection with the situation prevailing in South Korea and the Statement of the Joint Conference of the Leaders of the Political Parties and Social Organizations issued on April 27, the South Korean people who demand reforms are putting up more active resistance in defiance of the barbarous oppression by the U.S. imperialists and Huh Chung clique.

Now the broad sections of the people have risen. "We lived in huts under the American Military Government. Things were no better under the Hankook Democratic Party, or the Liberal Party. The present regime is just as bad. We don't want this any longer! We reject both the Liberal and Democratic Parties. All the old politicians, get out!" This is the people's voice. The South Korean people want to uproot the source of all evils—non-rights, hunger, and poverty.

Workers are staging strikes and demonstrations demanding abolition of organs and laws of suppression such as the reactionary trade unions and the reactionary labour laws, demanding right to organize real trade unions and collective bargaining, an eight-hour working day, wage increase, etc. While peasants are joining in the ranks of the uprisers, shouting: "We would rather die fighting than die of hunger."

Seeing that Huh Chung clique are serving as the U.S. stooges in betrayal of the national interests, the South Korean people have begun to stage new struggle.

On May 30, the students and citizens of Taegu held a demonstration carrying streamers bearing the words: "Down with the Huh Chung government!" "McConaughy, get out at once!" "Bring back Syngman Rhee immediately and put him on trial!"

On May 31 the students of Dankuk University and Kyunghi University in Seoul held demonstrations in front of the puppet capitol, shouting: "We do not trust the Huh Chung Cabinet, the remnant of dictatorship!" "Assume responsibility for the flight of Syngman Rhee, the enemy of the democratic forces!" "Down with the corrupt National Assembly!"

All this shows that the South Korean people have gradually turned the brunt of their just patriotic struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their new puppets, the Huh Chung clique.

Inspired by the struggle of the masses, preparations and activities are being briskly made for forming "reformist" political parties and organizations.

Moves are on foot to set up the "Progressive Party," "Hankook Independence Party," "Democratic Social Party," "Toiling People's Party," "Socialist Masses Party" and "Reformist Fellowship Federation."

A movement for "rallying reformist forces" by various parties is in progress in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju and other cities, while the voices for the immediate dissolution of the present "National Assembly," because it is not competent to revise the Constitution, are rising.

The "reformist" groups have initiated a movement for winning democratic rights.

They persist that draconic laws concocted by the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites should be abrogated and all the "political prisoners" should be released. They also maintain that the "National Assembly" should be dissolved, a new legislative organ comprising the representatives of various circles be established, and assurance of free activities of political parties and social organizations be given.

The "April 19 Youth and Students League" came out with the slogans: "Free political prisoners!" and "Drive out evil pro-Japanese and rapacious officials!"

In Seoul the "Union for Promoting National Unification" scattered handbills, saying: "It's high time for the fatherland to be unified!" and "Achieve the peaceful unification!"

The "Reformist Fellowship Federation," a group of the "reformist forces," came out against the "Bill of Revised Constitution" made public by the puppet "National Assembly" while insisting on the "liquidation of the National Assembly and resignation of the Huh Chung caretaker government".

Moreover, the "Restoration Fellowship Society" demanded the Huh Chung government to withdraw.

On June 1, at the second Preparatory Committee meeting of the "Reformist Fellowship Federation" urgent tasks were advanced in connection with the question of the country's unification, confiscation of the properties which the Syngman Rheeites had unlawfully accumulated, and abrogation of all malicious laws. Besides, the Federation insisted that a "North-South unification committee comprising all democratic political parties, social organizations and patriotic personnel" should be organized and the committee should work out a "programme for unification."

Thus the democratic movement is gaining momentum, reflecting the urgent demands of the people. And the American imperialists fear the democratic development in South Korea after the ouster of Syngman Rhee. They know too well that the development of the people's struggle for demo-

cracy will promote the country's peaceful unification, spelling an end to the U.S. colonial rule in the South.

Therefore, the U.S. imperialists are instigating the Huh Chung clique to oppress the popular masses and crush the "reformist forces" in the bud.

Why did Eisenhower come to South Korea on June 19 in defiance of the strong opposition of the Korean people?

The purpose of his South Korean visit was to inspire the reactionary South Korean ruling circles centered around the Huh Chung clique who are shivering in the teeth of the popular struggle of resistance, shore up the crumbling U.S. colonial rule, and continue to hold South Korea as a U.S. springboard for aggression in Asia.

Despite the strict cordon posted by U.S. army and South Korean army and police, Eisenhower, afraid of the people opposing his visit, did not drive along the scheduled course in Seoul. He turned off into an alley and hurriedly drove to the U.S. embassy. The U.S. President was seized with uneasiness and fear while he was in Seoul. He stayed only 28 hours.

Whatever manoeuvres and intrigues they may resort to, the U.S. imperialists and Huh Chung clique cannot curb the struggle of the South Korean people for a new government, a new system, and a new life. There will be no way for saving the tottering U.S. colonial rule in the South.

The South Korean people, with the strong support and encouragement extended by the people in the North and the peoples of the socialist countries and other world peace-loving people, will certainly win victory in their just struggle.

Approaching is the day when the country will be unified peacefully. Then South Korea, a land of darkness, will see a new light.

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